

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
(317) 232-9855

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7072**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1386

**DATE PREPARED:** Dec 30, 1998

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Fishing license exemption.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Bernadette Bartlett

**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9586

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                          **X DEDICATED**  
                          **X FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill exempts a developmentally disabled person from the requirement to have a fishing license if the person: (1) is a resident of Indiana; and (2) is fishing with a person who holds a fishing license or is exempt from the license requirement by reason of age or blindness.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 1999.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:** The above provision may decrease revenue collected by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by a minimal amount. The Division of Fish and Wildlife within the DNR retains \$8.00 for each fishing license sold. The Department also receives \$4.90 from the federal government for each fishing license sold. Hence, for every fishing license exemption for which the DNR does not collect a fee, the Department loses \$12.90.

*Estimate of the Population with Developmental Disabilities.* In July 1998, the Task Force on Developmental Services, which was appointed by the Governor, estimated that at least 56,000 individuals with developmental disabilities reside in Indiana. The number of these individuals who would be interested and able to fish is indeterminable. The estimate below assumes that the percentage of individuals with disabilities who would be interested and able to fish is the same as the percentage of individuals in the general population that purchase a fishing license. This assumption may result in an estimate indicative of the maximum impact.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reports that 416,568 resident yearly fishing-only licenses were sold in 1997. The Census Bureau reports that in 1996 there were 5,841,000 residents in Indiana. Based on the number of yearly fishing-only licenses sold and the total state population, approximately 7% of Indiana's population purchased a fishing-only license.

The Division also reports that 113,851 yearly resident licenses for both hunting *and* fishing were sold for 1997. The number of hunting and fishing licenses sold, represents roughly 2% of Indiana's population. If the combined percentage of the individuals who purchased fishing-only licenses *and* fishing and hunting licenses were applied to the estimated population with developmental disabilities, approximately 5,040, or 9%, of the estimated population would be exempt from the requirement to purchase a fishing license, assuming that all of these individuals are fishing with another angler with a license or an angler who is exempt from the requirement to have a license due to age or blindness.

The Department receives \$8.00 for each fishing license sold. The annual revenue loss in state dollars from exempting individuals with developmental disabilities is estimated at \$40,320 (The estimated eligible population, or 5,040, multiplied by \$8.00 fee per license, equals \$40,320.)

The Division receives \$4.90 in federal reimbursement for each fishing license sold. Under the proposal, the Division would lose approximately \$24,696 in federal reimbursement. (The estimated population, or 5,040, multiplied by the \$4.90 federal reimbursement equals \$24,696.)

The maximum total revenue loss is estimated at \$65,016 (\$40,320 plus \$24,696 equals \$65,016). **However**, this total might be high because the proposal requires that the individual be fishing with another individual who has a license or who is exempt from the license requirement by reason of age or blindness. This provision may also encourage individuals who wish to take an individual with developmental disabilities to go fishing and who may not have purchased a license before, to purchase a license.

Revenues collected from fishing license fees are deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Fund. The Fund finances the operations of the DNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Division of Law Enforcement. The proposal would decrease the amount of revenue available in the Fund to finance the operations of the two DNR divisions.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Natural Resources.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1997, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Table No. 33.; Comprehensive Plan for the Design of Services for People with Developmental Disabilities, Indiana SB 317 Task Force, July 1998; Division of Fish and Wildlife, DNR (317) 232-4080.